

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A method for altering an operational aspect of a mobile electronic device, the  
2     method comprising:  
3           providing a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device;  
4           determining whether the sensor is coupled to a mating element associated with the  
5     sensor;  
6           developing a signal in the sensor, the signal determined by whether the sensor is  
7     coupled to the mating element;  
8           receiving the signal in a processor, and  
9           altering a characteristic of the mobile electronic device based on the received sensor  
10     signal.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the altering step alters a user interface  
2     characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           3.     The method of claim 1, wherein the altering step alters a radio frequency  
2     (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           4.     The method of claim 1, further comprising using a default user interface  
2     characteristic and a default radio frequency characteristic if the determining step concludes  
3     that the sensor is not coupled to the mating element.

1           5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising altering a user interface  
2     characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the mating element if the determining  
3     step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating element.

1           6.     The method of claim 1, further comprising altering a radio frequency (RF)  
2     characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the mating element if the determining  
3     step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating element.

1           7.     The method of claim 5, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           8.     The method of claim 5, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1           9.     The method of claim 6, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2     stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the mating element is chosen from the group  
2     consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3     carrier.

1           11.     The method of claim 10, wherein the altering step alters an operational  
2     aspect of the mobile electronic device based upon whether the mobile electronic device is  
3     uncoupled from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the  
4     car clip, or the clothing carrier.

1           12.     A system for altering an operational aspect of a mobile electronic device,  
2     comprising:

3                 a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device;  
4                 a mating element associated with the sensor, the sensor configured to develop a  
5     signal based on the mating element; and  
6                 logic configured to receive the signal from the sensor and alter a characteristic of the  
7     mobile electronic device based on the received sensor signal.

1           13.     The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor is decoupled from the mating  
2     element and the sensor signal causes the logic to use a default user interface characteristic  
3     and a default radio frequency (RF) characteristic.

1           14.     The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor is coupled to the mating element  
2     and the mating element determines the sensor signal.

1           15.     The system of claim 14, wherein the sensor signal causes the logic to alter a  
2     user interface characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           16.     The system of claim 14, wherein the sensor signal causes the logic to alter a  
2     radio frequency (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           17.     The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           18.     The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1           19.     The system of claim 16, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2     stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           20.     The system of claim 12, wherein the mating element is chosen from the  
2     group consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3     carrier.

1           21.     The system of claim 20, wherein an operational aspect of the mobile  
2     electronic device is altered based upon whether the mobile electronic device is uncoupled  
3     from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the car clip,  
4     or the clothing carrier.

1           22.     A computer readable medium having a program for altering an operational  
2     aspect of a mobile electronic device, the program comprising logic configured to perform the  
3     steps of:

4                 determining whether a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device is coupled  
5     to a mating element associated with the sensor;

6                 developing a signal in the sensor, the signal determined by whether the sensor is  
7     coupled to the mating element;

8                 receiving the signal in a processor; and

9                 altering a characteristic of the mobile electronic device based on the received sensor  
10     signal.

1           23.     The program of claim 22, wherein the altering step alters a user interface  
2     characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           24.     The program of claim 22, wherein the altering step alters a radio frequency  
2     (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           25.     The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2     step of using a default user interface characteristic and a default radio frequency  
3     characteristic if the determining step concludes that the sensor is not coupled to the mating  
4     element.

1           26.     The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2     step of altering a user interface characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the  
3     mating element if the determining step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating  
4     element.

1           27.     The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2     step of altering a radio frequency (RF) characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined  
3     by the mating element if the determining step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a  
4     mating element.

1           28.     The program of claim 26, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor

1           29.     The program of claim 26, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1           30.     The program of claim 27, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2     stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           31.     The program of claim 22, wherein the mating element is chosen from the  
2     group consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3     carrier.

1           32.     The program of claim 31, wherein the altering step alters an operational  
2     aspect of the mobile electronic device based upon whether the mobile electronic device is  
3     uncoupled from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the  
4     car clip, or the clothing carrier.